

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/286,469

Examiner

Thien D Tran

Applicant(s)

O'CONNELL, ANNE

Art Unit

2665

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/06/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4-7,9-12 are respectively renumbered as 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 April 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 2 the prior arts fail to disclose communication network comprising a plurality of ports for the reception and transmission of data packets and means for establishing a database for controlling the passage of data packets between the ports, the database comprising a data table for holding data entries each comprising a media access control address and an identification of a port, and a hash table accessible by hashing at least a part of respective network addresses of received data packets, the hash table having entries each comprising a network address and an associated pointer to an entry in the data table.

Regarding claim 4 the prior arts fail to disclose a method of operating a network switch in a packet based data communication network, wherein the network switch has a multiplicity of ports each connected to a respective group of remote stations by way of an intermediate network device, the network switch responding to network addresses in packets received by the network switch to look up in a data table a media access control address comprising the steps of: responding to a network address of an incoming packet to access a pointer table of address pointers identifying an entry in the data table; and storing network address entries in the pointer table.

Regarding claim 6, the prior arts fail to disclose a network switch for a packet based data communication network, comprising a plurality of ports for the reception and transmission of data packets which include network address data and media access

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control address data comprising: a database for controlling the passage of data packets between ports the database comprising a first data table for holding data entries each comprising network address; and entries in the first data table each include a pointer to an entry in a second data table.

Regarding claims 9, 10, the prior arts fail to disclose a network switch for a packet based data communication network, comprising a plurality of ports for the reception and transmission of data packets which include network address data and media access control address data comprising: a database for controlling the passage of data packets between the ports, the database comprising first and second tables, wherein; and the first data table hold data entries each comprising a network address and a pointer to an entry the second data table.

Regarding claim 12, the prior arts fail to disclose network switch for a packet based data communication network, the switch comprising a plurality of ports for the reception and transmission of data packets that include network address data and media access control data having: a first data table, accessible by the hashing, containing network addresses and associated pointers to an entry in a second table; and the second table containing the media access control addresses and port identification; and wherein pointers from network addresses in the first data table having a common media access control address in the switch identify a single common entry in the second table.

### ***Conclusion***

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2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Thien Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3156. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu, can be reached on (571) 272-3155. Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Thien Tran

PRIMARY EXAMINER  
DUCHO

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thien Tran', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

02-1-05